ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A class synthesizing circuit classifies an aimed-at
data item into one of a plurality of classes specified in
advance, according to a plurality of data items disposed
around the aimed-at data item. A coefficient holding and
class-code selection circuit stores conversion information
for the aimed-at data item, for each class. An estimation-
prediction calculation circuit converts the aimed-at data
item to a higher-quality data item according to the
conversion information. The class synthesizing circuit
classifies the aimed-at data item into a different class
according to whether the aimed-at data item is missing.